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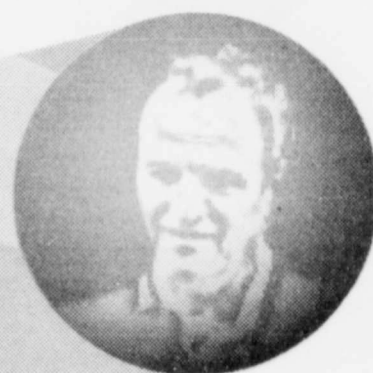
MUSTANG DAILY

Wednesday
October 29, 2008

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PROP. 4



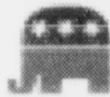
PROP. 8



PROP. 2



POLITICS



Student activists campaign for candidates in free time



OMAR SANCHEZ, MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly College Republicans President Jacki DeMarchi spends time walking around campus campaigning for the McCain-Palin ticket and talking about conservative issues on the November ballot. DeMarchi said she supports McCain first and foremost for his economic policies.



OMAR SANCHEZ, MUSTANG DAILY

Frank Sanchez, a member of Cal Poly Democrats, can often be seen walking around the University Union registering fellow students to vote. Sanchez campaigns for Obama and co-founded the Cal Poly Facebook group supporting the candidate.

Omar Sanchez

MUSTANG DAILY

Change has unofficially dubbed itself the theme of this election. From packed arenas and small townhall meetings, the call is being echoed by millions of Americans. They're people who are angry, frustrated, inspired and motivated to do something about the status quo, and in some cases, they're working for change right here on campus.

They're people like computer engineering senior Frank Sanchez, a member of the Cal Poly Democrats and Cal Poly students for Barack Obama (a group he co-founded with Conner Johnston, and Molly McFarland). Utilizing the power and efficiency of the Internet, the three created a Facebook group, which is now has more than 800 Cal Poly members. Cal Poly Students for Barack Obama is an official chapter of Students for Barack Obama, the student branch of the Obama for America campaign.

At random times during the day Sanchez can be seen walking through the University Union Plaza with his roommate's black Labrador, registering voters between classes. When he's not registering voters he's welcoming politicians like 23rd district congresswoman Lois Capps (D-Calif.) to Cal Poly to speak and take question from students.

His activism traces back to when Sanchez was in high school. The Iraq War was in its early stages, and Sanchez was aggressively calling for its end. However, he fell out of activism when he felt his voice wasn't being heard.

"I felt like didn't really have a say, like no one was going to listen to me, so I became very apathetic towards politics and sat out of a lot of elections," he says. "I voted Democrat, but I didn't really do any campaigning."

It wasn't until he heard Sen. Barack Obama's rebuttal to President George W. Bush's State of the Union Address that he was impressed enough to look up the junior Democratic senator from Illinois. In fact, Sanchez recalls his roommate telling him, "This guy is going to be our next president," and he answered back, "We'll see about that."

While doing research on Obama one night, he stumbled upon a YouTube video of Obama's 2004 Democratic National Convention speech. In a moment he was sold on Obama. "I donated \$20 that night, then later someone from the campaign called me to see if I was interested in volunteering. From then on I've been really involved."

The biggest issue Sanchez hopes an Obama administration would tackle during its presidency is the Iraq War.

"The Iraq War has sort of been his claim to fame. So for him to keep his promise of withdrawing troops is up on my list," he said. "If the economy is still in the condition that it's in

now, then the economy should be the priority, but I think the economy will rebound." Sanchez also pointed out that he believes Obama wouldn't be in this current position as the Democratic presidential nominee if he didn't speak out against the Iraq War when he did.

He said his politics beliefs derived from this Democratic parents and the he progressive teachers in his life. "They didn't necessarily tell me what to believe, but they gave me good sources of information. I grew up during the Clinton administration and things were good, then Bush took office, and things don't seem to be going as well," he said.

Although he is a member of the Cal Poly Democrats, Sanchez said he is more left-leaning than the average Democrat and actually considers himself more of an independent. Sanchez said he has voted for candidates from other parties including the Green Party and Peace and Freedom Party.

Organizing events for his groups has been hectic for the senior in his last quarter at Cal Poly. "Especially during this homestretch right before the election, things really gear up. It's difficult to get all my school work done and campaign," he said. "It has taken a lot of caffeine."

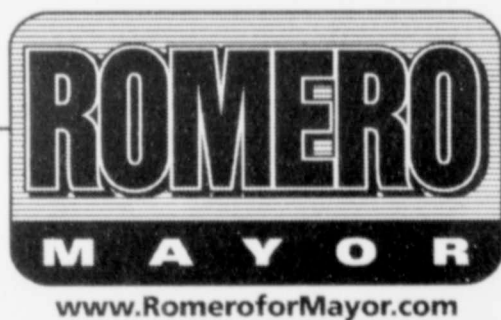
The presidential debates served as a time to rest from the campaigning and to analyze and discuss the issues among his fellow Obama supporters while at a barbeque hosted for the final debate.

On election night, whether his candidate wins or losses, Sanchez says he will continue to work to elect progressive candidates into office. "That's sort of what Barack Obama did for me. He got a lot of us who were out of the loop and not involved in politics back into it," he said. "It's not necessarily about Barack Obama because elections happen every two years. We have a governor's race coming in 2010."

On the other end of the political spectrum, but just as

see Campaign, page 7

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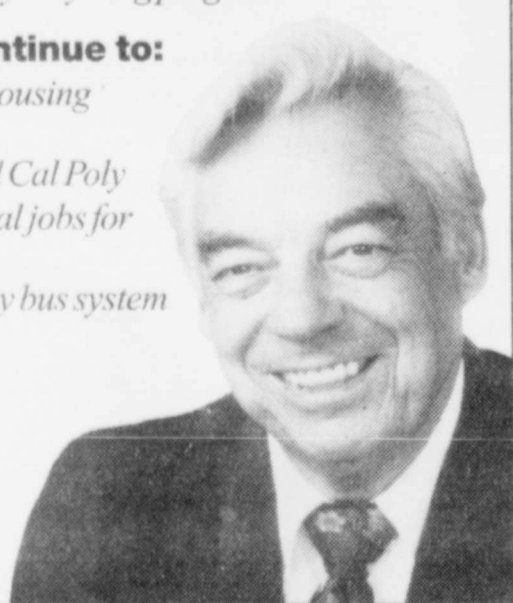
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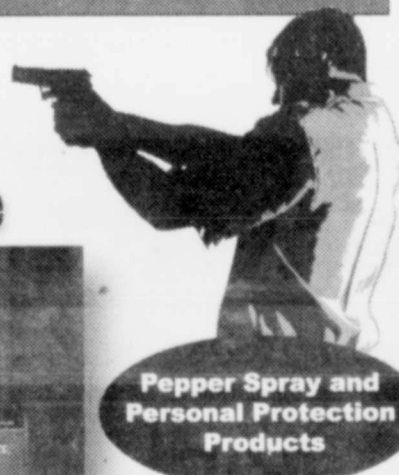


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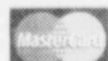
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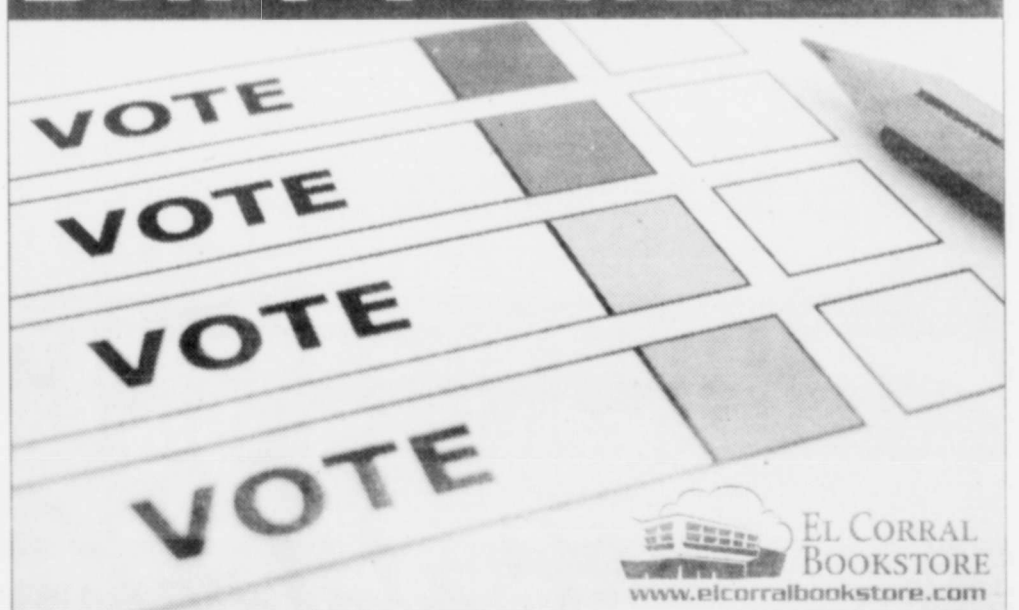
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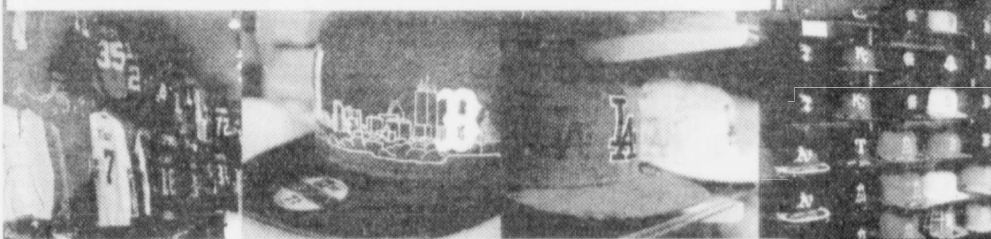
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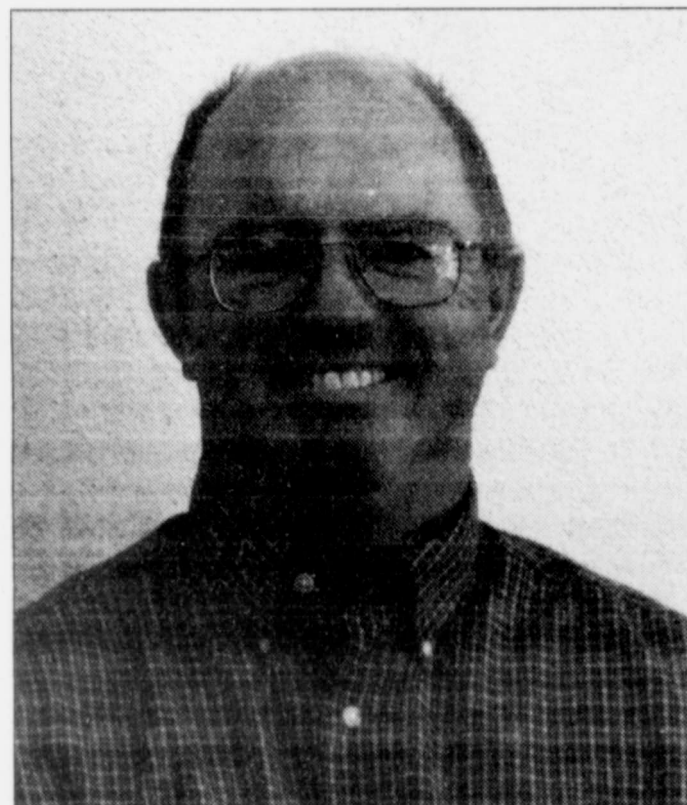
Mayoral candidates share passion for city of San Luis Obispo



MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO BY BRIDGET VELTRI

Mayoral incumbent Dave Romero (above) and challenger Terry Mohan (below) share very different views on issues like what should be done for San Luis Obispo's economic future, but both welcome Cal Poly students into the community.

COURTESY PHOTO



Bridget Veltri
MUSTANG DAILY

Why should you care who is elected mayor? Maybe you're just a guest in this small college town, acquiring a little knowledge before moving on to the bigger and better that the real world has to offer. But if you love San Luis Obispo and plan on coming back to show your kids your old college 'stomping grounds,' you might want to have a say in who will be running the show for the next two years.

And what exactly does a city mayor do besides cut the ribbon at new store openings? To put it bluntly, a mayor is basically a glorified city council member, acting as the head of the city's municipal government and officiating over ceremonial events like ribbon cuttings.

The two candidates running for San Luis Obispo mayor's this year are incumbent Dave Romero and challenger Terry Mohan.

In terms of experience levels, the two are like oil and vinegar: Romero is retired besides his job as the current mayor, Mohan drives a truck for a company called Unisource Worldwide. What the two have in common is a genuine love for their town and a desire to see it flourish.

Mustang Daily: Why are you running for mayor?

Terry Mohan: "I wanted to get my issues out. I know a lot of people who are anti-Dave Romero and wanted to give people a clear choice if they wanted to vote for mayor."

MD: What are your issues?

Mohan: "I'm a slow growth advocate... I don't like all this development... Ever since Dave got into the mayors office all these annexations and big projects are coming in... I'm afraid that overgrowth, that its going to hurt the livability of the city."

MD: What do you think the biggest local issue is for Cal Poly students?

Dave Romero: "The frictions that occur between some of the students' lifestyles and some of the residents."

MD: Is Mardi Gras ever coming back?

Romero: "(It's) probably never coming back. It started out as a fun event and then just kept getting wilder and wilder and it eventually became a danger here."

Mohan: "Mardi Gras is a problem within itself wherever you go."

MD: What do you love most about Cal Poly students?

Romero: "I love the students' vitality. It's the thing that makes San Luis Obispo different. Students bring in lots of interest and lots of excitement."

Mohan: "I like that they get out and volunteer in the community. Most of them are good ambassadors for the university."

MD: Is there anything that can be done for students that want to be able to stay and live here after they graduate?

Romero: "I don't think there is much that can be done. A lot of students have been able to find a way to stay. Because we are a slow grow city the cost of living is high. It's a desirable place to live, but it does restrict the ability of people that are just starting out to be able to find housing and stay here."

Mohan: "Well I don't see too many Cal Poly students that want to stay here, but I would like to see more workforce housing. I came here because I wanted to live here and did what it took to do that. If you really want to live somewhere you can make ends meet and you can get by."

MD (to Romero): You said that you want to protect city revenues from being lost to shopping in neighboring cities. Does this mean that you want to build more buildings and shopping centers?

Romero: "We need to modernize. People are leaving San Luis Obispo and going to neighboring cities to do their major shopping... and we are loosing that sales tax revenue. But we are certainly watching out for downtown. In

fact, my emphasis hopefully during this term will be to upgrade and finish beautifying the downtown."

MD (to Mohan): You are opposed to this?

Mohan: "People don't have to go anywhere. To say that you have to go to those places (to shop) is a fabrication. People do go... and we may loose that sales tax to it but there's no saying that we really needed that money in the first place."

MD (to Romero): What is your favorite part about being mayor?

Romero: "I get to contact lots of citizens on a regular basis. I am very fortunate to be in such a well-run city. I get very few criticisms about what the city is doing. I have a personalized feeling about the city because I have been here so long, everything is mine to some degree. Everywhere I go I see something that I had a hand in. The city of San Luis Obispo makes my job a pleasure."

MD (to Mohan): What do you think the qualifications to be mayor are?

Mohan: "You have to have a basic knowledge of city rules and regulations. You are a representative of the people. You have to have common sense and an ear to listen to what the people want done."

MD: Why should students vote for you?

Romero: "I've spent a lifetime being public works director and virtually every public improvement of a civic city that has been installed in the city or serving Cal Poly has been done under my jurisdiction. There is no reason at this stage in my career that I would change and want to do something else with my life. I often say if you love San Luis Obispo, you love my life's work."

Mohan: "My intent is to keep the city the way it is, 'save the SLO life.' If you like the small town atmosphere, if you like the community we are in and would like to stay or come back at some point and raise your family here."

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Campaign

continued from page 2

passionate about her candidate, is Cal Poly student Jacki DeMarchi. Her support for Sen. John McCain came after he clinched the Republican Party nomination. "I initially didn't support (McCain), but as I started to learn more about him, I have become completely happy to support him," she said. Former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani had trumped the top of her list at first.

The animal science senior became a member of the Cal Poly College Republicans as a freshman and worked herself up to president. It was during this period that she really became captivated with politics.

"After meeting people, going to the different conventions and events, I felt attached and I really believed in the ideas of the club," she said.

When out campaigning, DeMarchi gets mixed reactions from people, which in turn fortify her reasons for campaigning.

"It is hard when there aren't many people who are super-excited. It's not discouraging, but I don't want people to vote for Barack Obama just because they're mad at George W. Bush."

Because she considers herself an economic conservative, issues like excessive government spending and taxes lured her to the Republican Party. On the other hand, she does not

consider herself completely "right wing," saying that "issues that don't necessarily affect me, like social issues, are not things I'm very concerned with. I'm concerned more with things that affect me directly, like payroll taxes."

DeMarchi went on to mention that Republicans at times are as labeled "cold-hearted" people who do not care about the less fortunate; a label she said is completely untrue. "Many Republican officials donate a larger percentage of their income to charities than, let's say, Joe Biden who donated less than a percent."

It's those core Republican values of limited government, limited spending, and fewer taxes that solidify her choice of candidates. So when the bailout plan was pending in Congress, DeMarchi called her congressmen to tell them to vote no on it. "They need to know these things, they keep track of these things, and they do listen" she said. And when the plan passed, she kept in mind that she carried out her responsibility of informing her representatives of her opinion.

The Mission Viejo native has a Republican mother and an Independent father but said that had little effect on her political ideology. Rather, she credits more the conservative atmosphere of Orange County for the development of her political leanings.

DeMarchi admitted that she agrees with some liberal ideas, but that she is still consistently more conservative. Therefore, when McCain worked across party lines, it did not trouble her as much. "You have people believing so many different things. So it's hard to get anything done. When McCain compromises with the other side, he is working to get something done, in-

stead of getting nothing done."

When McCain announced Sarah Palin as his vice-presidential pick, she said that she was pleasantly surprised. "I think she brings in a new crowd of Republicans, a younger crowd who can relate more to her because of her age," she explained. She cited the Alaskan governor's record of taking on big oil companies and fighting pork-barrel spending as a good fit for McCain's fiscal record.

DeMarchi is aware that her candidate has a slim chance of prevailing in California, but recognizes that the election isn't solely about electing a president, and said she believes her efforts are for the greater conservative movement.

"A lot of the information we hand out to voters is about local candidates and propositions because it's about stuff we have a chance at winning," she said. "Not that we lost hope, but that our time and effort can be used wisely to swing votes in Nevada." Nevada is one of several swing states that both parties are aggressively targeting.

June will mark the end of her academic career at poly, and she already made plans to run for office after starting a career. "If I care about the things I believe in, I want to make sure I am out there doing something about it. I don't want to wait for someone else to do something about it."

For the time being, she is campaigning to elect the man she thinks is best qualified for the presidency. But if he isn't elected, she said, "I don't want my country to do worse under Obama because it will help Republicans, I want my country to do better. And if Barack Obama gets elected, I wish him the best."

Maldonado vs. Fitzgerald: Race pits seasoned politician against independent challenger

Joshua Ayers
MUSTANG DAILY

California's 15th district state Senate race is shaping up to be a true David and Goliath-like contest.

The incumbent: Abel Maldonado (R-Santa Maria), career politician seasoned by experience of work at a local and state level.

The challenger: Jim Fitzgerald, a to-be United Parcel Service retiree and independent candidate with no political experience and significantly different campaigning style than that of Maldonado.

Maldonado entered into the political arena in 1996 when he won the mayoral election in Santa Maria. Following one term as mayor, Maldonado picked up a State Assembly seat in 1998, where he served the maximum three terms before running for and winning the election for State Senator of the 15th district by defeating Democrat Peg Pinard and Green Party Candidate Brook Madsen with 52.8 percent of the vote in 2004.

Fitzgerald decided to enter the race earlier this year when he realized that Maldonado would have run unopposed. Being an independent, Fitzgerald, an accounts manager with UPS, was required to obtain more than 13,000 signatures by Aug. 8 in order to get his name on the Nov. 4 ballot. The established Democratic and Republican parties require only 60 signatures.

Though Maldonado could not be reached by press time, his campaign manager Brandon Gesicki said that Maldonado has been a key advocate of alternative energy programs and legislation. Gesicki also said in a telephone interview that among Maldonado's more notable actions as state senator is that he has "supported education funding."

Alternative energy implementation is a hot-button topic for

Fitzgerald as well. The independent candidate said that his first goal would be to draft a bill that would require the state to purchase hybrid vehicles when replacing state vehicles.

"That's a proven technology," Fitzgerald said of hybrid vehicle technology.

On the campaign contribution side of the election, Maldonado has managed to raise more than a million dollars.

Fitzgerald did not disclose the amount that he has raised for his campaign so far but mentioned that he will only accept campaign contributions of \$20 or less per person and also said that rather than accepting a donation he would rather have a person tell six people about his campaign than to accept a donation.

"I don't want to have anyone trying to influence my vote," Fitzgerald said.

Quick facts:

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To learn more about this local study, please contact:
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For many, Prop 8 gets personal

Cal Poly students both for and against the measure talk about what the reversal of same-sex marriage would mean to them

Samantha MacConnell

MUSTANG DAILY

Proposition 8, one of the most controversial measures on the California ballot to date, has sparked heated debate locally, whether it be during Thursday night's Farmers' Market or on the proposition board in the University Union, which allows students to pen their thoughts directly onto it.

"I was out at Farmers' Market for hours with one of my good friends who happens to be in a heterosexual relationship and she and I were pounding the pavement for No on 8 the whole time," said Associated Students Inc. President and openly gay student Angela Kramer. "It's not just gays and lesbians who care about this proposition."

Kramer, a political science senior, is among the many students who feel they will be personally affected if the proposition passes.

"I plan on getting married in the state of California and regardless of where I become a resident after I graduate, I would hope that when I came back to California, my marriage was still considered legal," said Kramer. "It is very personal. This is my life. This is somebody's life."

Seth Winkenwerder, a biology junior and member of Prism and the Speaker's Bureau, which aims to help students with issues like coming out and self-identity, has been working with the No on 8 campaign to inform students on campus. He too said he would be negatively impacted by the proposition.

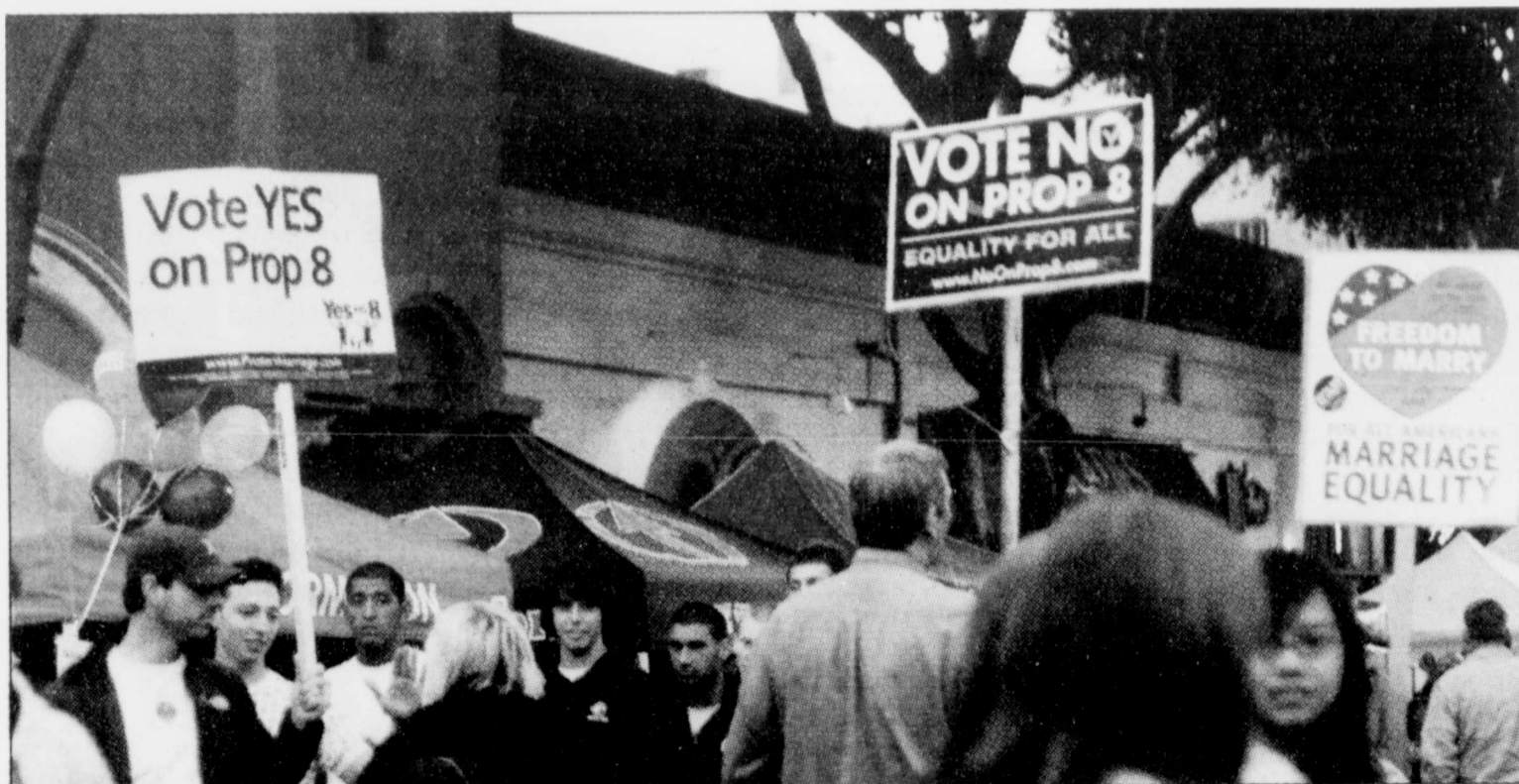
"I would be really disturbed because I feel like for me this is an issue of civil rights and this is an issue of my civil rights," said Winkenwerder. "This is an issue of the law seeing my life and my relationships as equal to anyone else."

After the legalization of same-sex marriage in California in May of this year, no one could have accurately predicted how those against the Supreme Court ruling would fight back in the upcoming November election.

Proposition 8 is a proposal that would amend the California Constitution to only recognize marriages between a man and woman in the state. Same-sex couples would not have the right to legally wed as a result.

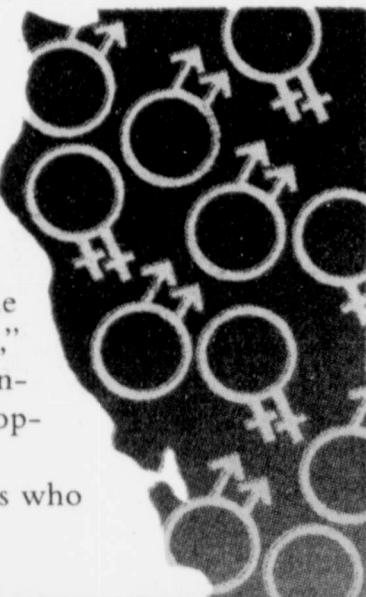
In domestic partnerships — unlike marriages — couples may need to undergo lengthy legal processes to gain benefits given to married couples such as hospital visitations, change of name, next of kin, adopting children and inheritance if someone were to pass away.

On May 15 of this year, the California Supreme Court ruled in a 4-3 decision that



MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO BY LAUREN RABIANO

Students and community members protested silently both for and against Proposition 8 at the San Luis Obispo Farmer's Market earlier this month. The proposition would amend the state constitution to only recognize marriages between a man and a woman.



PROP 8 - what it is:

California proposition to reverse the legalization of same-sex marriage; would only recognize marriage as between a man and a woman

same-sex couples could marry as early as June and the ban that went into effect in 2000 — called Proposition 22 and almost identical to Proposition 8 — was lifted and deemed unconstitutional and invalid.

Since Proposition 22, supporters have attempted without success to get similar measures on the ballot in order to re-establish what they say marriage originally symbolized; the partnership between a man and woman. Only now have supporters again been successful in qualifying for a place on the November ballot, compiling over one million signatures to add Proposition 8 to the ballot.

"The reason I am Yes on Prop 8 is because marriage is something that I didn't design and mankind didn't design," said Mendy Dearborn, a Cal Poly biochemistry graduate who earned a teaching credential and currently works in the education department. "It was there from the beginning throughout generations and as the American people, we don't have the right to decide this isn't how it's done; redefining something that is not ours to say how it's made."

"For some reason, we think we can change moral things," she added. "We don't have the right to change it."

The Protect Marriage Coalition is a prominent campaign in favor of the proposition. Protect Marriage brings together families, community leaders, religious leaders and individuals from all over the state who support Proposition 8.

The Protect Marriage Coalition holds that the definition of marriage was changed for all of society when the Supreme Court made their decision. According to coalition's Web site, the value of marriage is weakened when a marriage is between any two people, rather than only a man and woman.

"Proposition 8 does not have to do with homosexuality," said Yes on 8 supporter Danny Dearborn, husband to Mendy Dearborn and Cal Poly student currently earning his teaching credential in English. "It has to do with marriage and it has to do with what marriage is and how marriage is defined. In Genesis, God says what marriage is: between a man and woman," he said. "I'm married, so I've seen the blessing God can bring for that, for myself and my family."

Proponents of Proposition 8 say it means same-sex couples no harm and does not look to take away the rights already given to them under California's domestic partner law, which gives same-sex couples many of the same rights spouses are given under the state law. The coalition's claims that its primary goal is to preserve marriage between a man and woman.

But those against the proposition question this reasoning. "Why is taking the right to marry away from loving couples, that have often times been together for decades, protecting marriage when we have the highest divorce rate in the western world?" said Winkenwerder. "It doesn't make sense that we would say we are protecting marriage when we (as a society) need to rethink marriage."



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Mustang Daily



Prop 2 brings agriculture, animal welfare issues home for Cal Poly

Breehan Yohe-Mellor

MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's agricultural majors and professors have been clucking about the effects this election season will have on them if Proposition 2, the proposed Standards for Confining Farm Animals Act, passes Nov. 4.

The statute would require that calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens and pregnant pigs be confined in ways that allow them to lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs and turn around freely.

This would eliminate gestation crates for sows and veal crates for calves and would allow most egg-laying chickens to become free-range because not many farmers will be able to afford replacing all of their current battery cages, stacked wire enclosures which usually hold six to eight hens per cage.

Violators would be slapped with a misdemeanor penalty and a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to six months in county jail.

As California does not have a large pork and veal industry and both producers do not generally use the crates anymore, the state egg industry will be most affected by the proposition.

Proposition 2 has been supported by organizations such as the Humane Society, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the California Veterinary Medical Association, the Center for Food Safety, the Consumer Federation of America, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, the

see Prop 2, page 10



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chickens huddle in their cages at an egg processing plant at the Dwight Bell Farm in Atwater, Calif. On Nov. 4, California will vote on Proposition 2, which would set standards for housing chickens and other farm animals. If passed, it would prohibit ranchers from keeping chickens, veal calves and breeding pigs in pens or cages that are too small for the animal to move comfortably. The Mustang Daily was not granted access to photograph Cal Poly Eggs' hens, due to apparent health concerns.

PROP 2 - what it is:

Requires that calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens and pregnant pigs be confined only in ways that allow them to lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs and turn around freely

Do parents have the right to know all? Prop 4 says yes

Scott Silvey

MUSTANG DAILY

Abortion has always been a topic for debate during the political season and now new legislation is bringing the debate to an age-group that has little say in the political process.

Proposition 4, or the Abortion Waiting Period and Parental Notification Initiative, proposes to prohibit abortion for minors until 48 hours after a parent or legal guardian has been contacted.

Cal Poly Republicans president Jacki DeMarchi supports the initiative which would amend the California constitution.

"I don't think that girls under 18 are mature enough to be able to decide," DeMarchi said. "It is too big of a decision for young girls to make — to have a procedure done. It's a medical procedure and there are risks."

One such risk is that of doctors not having proper medical history

and background. Supporters of the law have dubbed it "Sarah's Law", after a 15-year-old girl who died at a Texas hospital from complications after an abortion.

Opposing the law is a group that might consider itself the closest guardian to a teen outside the family. The California Teachers Association serves 295,000 members in the state's more than 1,000 school

districts.

"The concern that teachers have is a safety issue," said CTA spokesman Frank Wells. "You can't legislate kids into talking to their parents if they have bad situations at home."

It could backfire and force kids to go more underground than they would now."

see Prop 4, page 13

PROP 4 - what it is:

Prohibits abortion for minors until 48 hours after a parent or legal guardian has been contacted





Prop 2

continued from page 9

United Farm Workers and the Cesar Chavez Foundation.

It has been opposed by several newspapers including the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Fresno Bee and the Santa Rosa Democrat. The California Food Animal Veterinary Medical Association, California Poultry Federation, the Latino Voters League, The California Black Chamber of Commerce, Californians for SAFE Food and the California Restaurant Association are some of the organizations that oppose it as well.

A SurveyUSA poll released Sept. 25 showed that 72 percent of Californians were in favor of the proposition with 10 percent against it and 17 percent still undecided.

"I would vote yes," said horticulture and crop science professor John Phillips. "I think anything that would move us away from the degree of close confinement of livestock that we have in many operations today would be a good thing."

Although a few of Cal Poly's chickens will be exempt from the statute due to a research exception, most of them will have to be moved out of their cages.

Steven Soderstrom, Cal Poly's poultry center manager, said the proposition would affect Cal Poly Eggs financially, most likely forcing it to downgrade from its current number of approximately 5,000 caged chickens to 2,000.

Animal science professor and Cal Poly alumnus Robert Spiller has been working with egg laying birds since 1959. He now specializes in the egg laying birds at Cal Poly.

Spiller said he is concerned about the health issues associated with having cage-free chickens.

"Birds are better off health-wise in a cage," he said. "They get far more bacterial diseases on the floor than in cages so you've got internal parasite issues, you've got a protozoal issue and you've got a bacterial issue (and) you also got a canibalism issue; there's more canibalism on the floor than there is in our modern cages."

Spiller added that the egg-laying White Leghorn hens are very flighty, tending to kick up a lot of dust and pile on top of each other suffocating themselves when startled.

He said that there are human health concerns to consider as well.

"The biggest issue with food safety has to do with salmonella and by having them in a cage free setting; a lot of the eggs are laid on the ground and that is where the feces is contained," he said. "(Also), a lot of countries have outlawed free range (birds) because of Avian Influenza (which is) transmissible to humans. Because we keep birds in cages, that has substantially reduced the risk of the pandemic in the US."

Phillips was not as convinced of the possible health issues with cage-free birds.

"A lot of people have experiences with free range livestock and what they find is that there are fewer problems with pathogens at least in the livestock themselves," Phillips said. "I'm sure you can find vets who would testify on either side of the issue... but my personal belief is that those fears have not been demonstrated to be real."

The other issue with Proposition 2 that perplexes Spiller is the potential loss of jobs.

"I feel like if it passes, it will harder to get a job in the poultry industry in California," Bettencourt said. "It's almost kind of radical that people are going to try to pass legislation that will dictate how you can run a business. (There will only be jobs) in Mexico or across state lines."

Lisa Franzetta, spokesperson for the Animal Legal Defense Fund in Cotati, Calif., said farmers need not worry if they follow in the footsteps of farmers already in compliance of the standards the statute would ask of them.

"There are over 100 family farms in the state of California who are strongly supporting Proposition 2," Franzetta said. "There are plenty of farmers who are already using relatively more humane methods who think it's completely feasible to

have commercially viable egg production that would be in compliance with what Proposition 2 is speaking to."

She added that those concerned about having to overhaul their business models have until January 1, 2015 to abide by the new standards.

"Like all things in society, the industries adjust and technology allows for industries to make changes...there is no reason why the way things are done today in farming should be the way that they always be done," Franzetta said. "The situation we're in right now is one where thousands of birds are in a single shed, crammed into cages so small where they can't engage in (normal) behaviors. This is a situation that never should have allowed to be in the first place."

Animal science professor Brooke Humphrey thinks supporters of Proposition 2 need to consider its consequences from a cerebral point of view.

"My concern is...evaluating it not from an emotional perspective but from a scientific-based perspective," Humphrey said. "That's fantastic (that you support animal rights) but have you been to a farm where birds are raised in cages or is everything you've seen just on the Internet? Because what's on the Internet is just horrible and it's not a good reflection of what it's really like."

Whatever happens with Proposition 2, the world, especially those involved with livestock affected by the bill, will be watching, according to Humphrey.

"I was actually at a veal conference in Florence, Italy and I had veal vets from France, The Netherlands, Germany and Italy asking me about what's going on with Prop. 2," Humphrey said. "This is something that the whole world is watching to see the outcome and I think they're curious because they know the decision that's made is going to have potentially local impact."

By the numbers:

3,000 - number of chickens Prop 2 could cause Cal Poly Eggs to downgrade

72 - percent of Californians polled who say the support Prop 2

2015 - year the proposition regulations would take effect if passed

they will not be produced here."

Animal science junior Sara Vatnsdal said she, like many other animal science majors, does not support the proposition.

"I'm worried that the eggs are going to come from Mexico and have diseases," she said. "You either have to have the chicken or the egg."

Christopher Bettencourt, an agricultural business junior with a poultry minor, said Proposition 2 is unfair and worries about finding a job.

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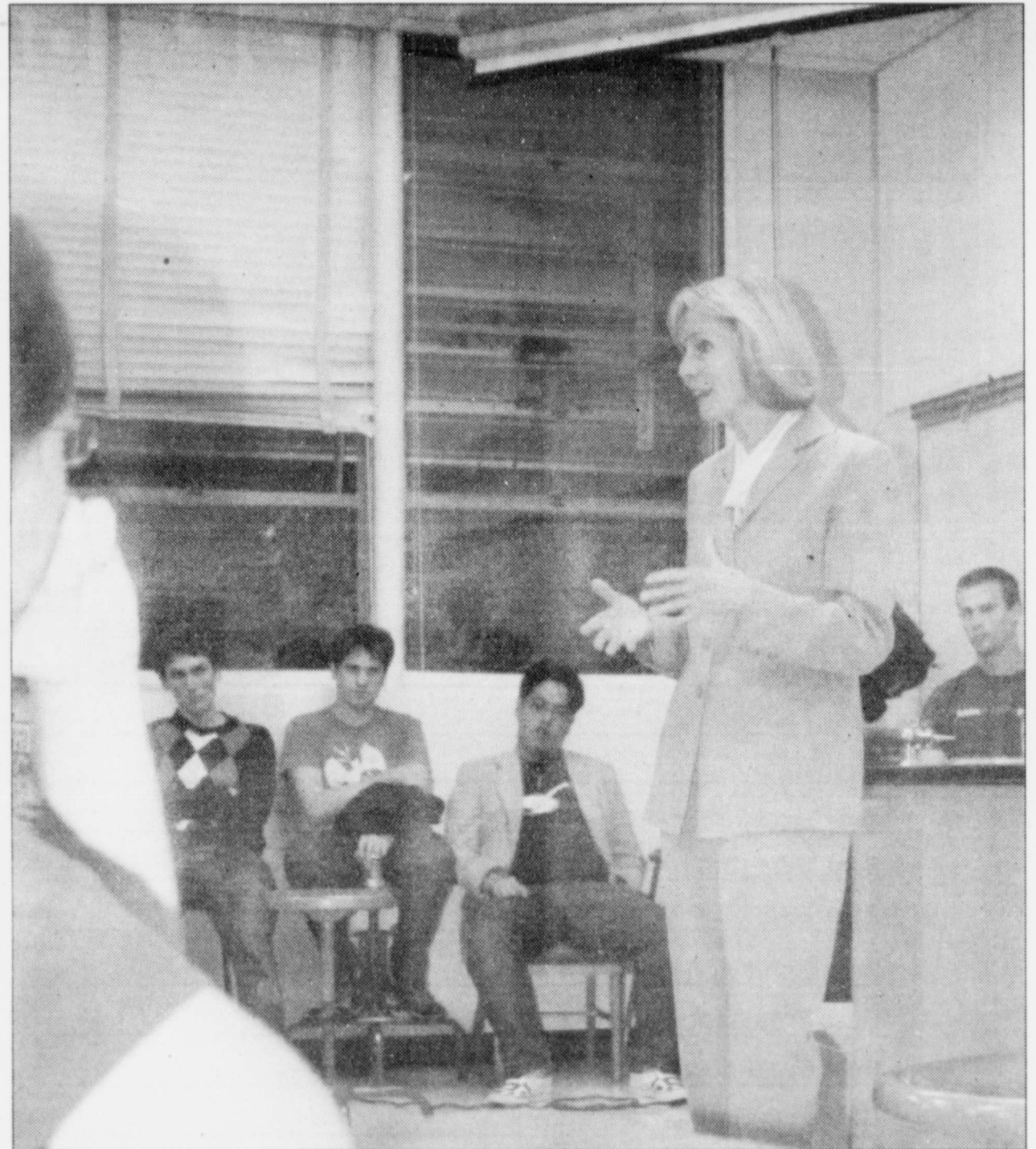


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LAUREN RABAINO MUSTANG DAILY

Kokkonen visited campus during Democracy Week to campaign among students.



CASSANDRA J. CARLSON MUSTANG DAILY

Current congresswoman Lois Capps gave a talk urging students to vote on Election Day.

Campaign for Congress: Lois Capps and Matt Kokkonen

— the people —

Background:

Incumbent Lois Capps has served in Congress for ten years, five of those as a representative for the 23rd district which includes San Luis Obispo County. Capps worked as a nurse for 20 years in the Santa Barbara School District and taught part-time as an early childhood education instructor at Santa Barbara City College for 10 years. She is "committed to helping people improve their daily lives through better schools, quality health care, and a cleaner environment," according to her Web site.

Background:

Matt Kokkonen immigrated to the U.S. from Finland when he was 16 and is now an American citizen. He opened Matt Kokkonen Insurance and Investment Agency in San Luis Obispo in 1975 and still runs the business today. "Being an immigrant from Finland, I believe in changes for the better. All Californians deserve that change. High gas prices, high food prices, and fewer jobs mean hardworking families are not living the American dream," Kokkonen said on his Web site.

Interviews and information by Mustang Daily reporter Alisha Axsom

— the issues —

Why should students care about, or be interested in, your campaign for Congress?

Lois Capps: "This is an election year the has captivated my excitement... I believe that we have the chance of a generation to turn our country around, to make such significant changes. I'm translating the excitement about this election and I feel it at Cal Poly a lot... People really believe that we all need to get engaged because there's so much at stake. I am running for office again because I want to make my community and my nation safer and stronger and more compassionate. We have so many challenges that directly impact today's college students. We're going to need every bit of skill and vision and technique that Cal Poly can produce."

Matt Kokkonen: "Well, Congress is the main legislative body for the U.S. and what happens there affects everybody and everything. One of the issues that very specifically addresses students is my tax proposal to eliminate all income taxes on earned income under age 25. That's a very novel idea. ...I want to give the students and other young people a head start in their lives so they can start a business, so they can get established in a career, so they can pay off student loans, so they can buy a home, so they can start a family. I want to get them engaged in our system, and I want to get them engaged in our economy and I want to get them started to becoming entrepreneurs."

How do you feel about the energy crisis and more specifically, and locally, offshore drilling?

Lois Capps: "If we can literally heal our climate or globe in time and fix the climate changes in time, before they become permanent that's going to take... a revolution. Some folks are saying we can't do it but I look to our young people to lead the way in that... We can become energy self-sufficient as a nation... When I had a visit (at Cal Poly) last summer, I had an opportunity to spend part of a day speaking with the students and seeing their projects...and the research that has practical application in the very green revolution that we need."

"I'm objecting to new oil drilling because it really won't make that much of a difference and it has the danger of really ruining a very precious part of our resource. We're never going to drill our way to energy independence. We need to produce more of our own oil and gas here, but we don't need to drill new platforms offshore. We need to make use of that which we already have leased."

Matt Kokkonen: "The incumbent does not believe we should be doing any drilling in Alaska, or off-shore, or between Florida and Cuba. I believe we need to develop all sources of energy. We must become energy-independent. We need to conserve and at the same time we need to drill for oil and gas. We can do it safely, we can do it without harming the environment, and it will increase our energy supply...and that will drive down the price of oil... to claim that (drilling now) won't affect our prices (for years) is flat wrong... we need to develop nuclear plants (right away)."

How do you feel about the \$700 billion "bailout" and did you/would you have voted for it?

Lois Capps: "It's an economic rescue package. It got labeled a "bailout" because people were so furious, including me, with Wall Street. It's all about protecting taxpayers... we're in a tough time because it hasn't started yet to make a difference on Wall Street... now what we have to do is get into the long term to really fix our problems, and it's going to take a while...we need to reform how Wall Street behaves... we need to use this funding so that people can be secure with their lives... college students can make sure their loans (stay at the failed institutions)."

Matt Kokkonen: "I would have voted against the Wall Street bailout and the bank bailout and the homebuyer bailout. I don't think it's the right way for our economy. The capital markets will take care of themselves if we permit them to work appropriately without undue government influence. One of the biggest causes of the credit crunch was the government's intervention in the normal underwriting process of loans."



Two local graduates vie for district 33 state assembly seat

Camas Frank
MUSTANG DAILY

The Race

California State Assembly District 33 encompasses all of San Luis Obispo County and 44.25 percent of Santa Barbara County. Last updated in 2001, assembly records show 219,200 registered voters.

The Candidates

Sam Blakeslee

He is a Republican, the incumbent and President of the investment firm Blakeslee & Blakeslee.

He was first elected to the assembly in 2004, and is running for his third term in office. A graduate of San Luis Obispo High School, he went on to obtain both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in geophysics from UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. from UC Santa Barbara.

After graduation, he became a research scientist for Exxon, eventually leaving to join his family's firm. He currently serves on ten committees in the assembly including the budget committee. He is a resident of San Luis Obispo.

Robert Cuthbert

He is a Democrat, former labor organizer and substitute teacher for Lompoc Unified School District.

He graduated from Cal Poly in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in Social Science and began work as a youth home manager at Sweeny Youth Homes while working as a labor organizer for United Food & Commercial Workers.

Having been an activist since age 18, he decided to move from demonstrations and organization to elected office after serving on party delegations. He is a current resident of Lompoc.

The Issues

Mustang Daily: Describe your platform and what it is that you expect to accomplish if elected:

Cuthbert: "I would be very dubious of anyone who can tell you, 'I'm going

to do this or I'm going to do that.' It's really all about being part of a process. My years as an activist are going to make me an effective part of that force."

"In Sacramento there are 80 people in the legislature, but there's this Senate Bill 840 which is health care for all. It's a single pay health care program and that's going to be my number one goal. It's been passed by the legislature twice, sent twice to the governor's desk and been vetoed twice. Sam Blakeslee voted against this."

Blakeslee: "My platform is helping the state balance its budget, promoting good jobs and protecting the environment. The way we need to balance the budget is to generate more revenue by attracting clean businesses to California."

"Some of the bio-tech and renewable energy firms employ very highly compensated individuals which pay very high taxes. Unfortunately, those businesses have actually been leaving the state in droves. We have to bring those jobs back. There was a time when folks tried to locate here but that's just been too costly."

MD: Your policy differences come down to economic goals. How do you justify your choices?

Blakeslee: "My opponent and I have a different perspective on the issue of creating a vast new government program during a time of very large deficits. SB840 would be the largest and most expensive government program to come out of the legislature in a generation. We don't have the money to pay for it."

"When we do have money we need to target spending. For heaven's sake, we must spend more on education. We have a failing educational system. It's very frightening to imagine a future in which the educational community would have to fight with an extremely large universal health care program run by the state. I believe it would be an unavoidable fight for available money."

Cuthbert: "The single payer system would make the State of California the number one insurer. It would bring in

everybody, every family, every child and every adult. It brings down administrative costs dramatically. It means that everyone in California would get basic healthcare, including preventative care... The money that is coming from the federal government that is now used for things like Medi-Cal goes into the system, so everybody pools their money. Everybody pays and efficiency becomes a part of administration. Efficiency is in preventative care. It's a lot cheaper to treat somebody for a mild heart condition than it is a major heart attack."

MD: You both agree on education's priority but to you go about funding differently. How do we increase revenue to meet the goal?

Cuthbert: "I would like to see the state of California have an independent audit. There are a lot of programs that are in many ways blended in. A large company does independent audits just to tell where the money's going. We've got an independent summary; the outline takes 80 pages. In other words, the devil's in the details."

MD: You favor increasing property taxes then?

Cuthbert: "By necessity."

Blakeslee: "I would change the tax code to something called 'hyper-weighted' sales tax factor. There is a number of ways to compute taxes on corporations, some of which actually penalize the company for being located in California. I believe we need to use a formula which essentially incentivizes companies to move to California. We actually passed a bill two years ago that did that and it was killed in the senate. So I'm going to be working with others to bring that bill back and get it passed."

"When you have a company like Intel that wants to open a factory, they pay sales tax on the machinery that they buy and then the chips that they produce are taxed. What's legal under federal law is to adopt a system that forgive the taxes on the original equipment if the overall outcome will be to bring more money to the state."

Prop 4

continued from page 9

Among the underground alternatives are illegal often-times dangerous procedures that could put the teen's safety in question.

"This law could drive some kids into unsafe procedures and unsafe situations," Wells said. "We just don't think that this law is in the best interest of kids."

DeMarchi disagrees, saying that the law would benefit not only the parents, but the teens themselves.

"It's a big weight on (the teens') shoulders and trying to go through that alone and living at home I'd imagine that would be very difficult," DeMarchi added.

DeMarchi also sees some hypocrisy in current California laws regarding what needs parental consent and what doesn't.

"In the state of California you need parental permission to get a tattoo or a piercing," DeMarchi said. "It's crazy that you can't get your ears pierced without parental permission but you can get an abortion."

This is the third time a parental notification proposition has been put to a vote in California. In 2005, Proposition 73 was voted down by 52.7 percent of voters and Proposition 86 was voted down by 54 percent in 2006.

The older propositions seemed to focus on safeguards put into place to help teens struggling with physically or mentally abusive family. Under the new law, they would be allowed to notify a different relative or guardian.

There are also clauses which allow a waiver of the consent for medical emergencies, or a court waiver based on clear and convincing evidence of the minor's maturity or best interests.

DeMarchi said that new safeguards in the amendment could make the difference to swing voters in its favor this year.

"I'm hoping that (Proposition 4) was written in more of a context looking at how the older ones failed and it would coincide with more people's beliefs rather than just repeating a mistake," DeMarchi said.

Wells said that the waivers would be very hard to procure, and he doesn't think teens will go out of their way trying to get one.

"We're talking about teenagers here," Wells said. "They're not going to jump through a lot of hoops and put themselves in the middle of the system when what they're being motivated by is the fear of telling their parents in the first place."

DeMarchi believes that parents should be aware of what is going on with their children and this law is a way to get teens to make more informed decisions.

"I think that it is important that parents understand what's going on in their kids' lives," DeMarchi said. "But I understand that (Proposition 4) is for the benefit of younger girls. When they're young — when kids are young in general — they cannot always make the best decisions for themselves, especially when they're under stress or in a tough situation. Parental input would definitely be valuable."

It's crazy that you can't get your ears pierced without parental permission but you can get an abortion.

—Jacki DeMarchi
Cal Poly Republicans president and student

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Election day rebels with a cause

Marlize van Romburgh

MUSTANG DAILY

When independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader came to Cal Poly to speak in late September, hundreds piled into the auditorium and overflowed out into the hallway outside, hustling and bustling to get a seat. Mixed in the shuffle stood Scott Waddell, a student passionate about politics but without a candidate.

A friend had e-mailed him information about the Nader which peaked his interest. Not finding that either of the two major-party candidates resonated with him, Waddell decided to go hear Nader speak.

As the Peace and Freedom party candidate took the stage, he received a several minute-long standing ovation from an energetic and vocal crowd.

Waddell now looks back on the day he was converted to a third-party supporter.

"I felt like (Nader) was talking about the issues — unlike the two people we saw on TV last night. He was articulate and what he said just made sense," Waddell, an electrical engineering senior, said a month later. "Candidates with very little support aren't afraid to talk about the issues because they have nothing to lose."

For Waddell and a handful of other students, the change they want to see in Washington is rarely reflected in the issues debated on television by the Republicans and Democrats. Instead, they find themselves swimming against the current, seeking out candidates like Nader, libertarian-at-heart and former Republican nominee Ron Paul, Libertarian Party candidate Bob Barr and even Green Party candidate Cynthia McKinney. These students are a minority — often single digit percentage points in the polls — but many are adamant and vocal about their support for their respective candidates.

"I really feel like I should vote for who I like," Waddell explained. "A lot of people say I'm wasting my vote. I know my candidate's not going to win, but I know it's better to vote for someone I like, even if he'll lose."

It's a sentiment echoed not just by Nader fans, but by third-party supporters everywhere.

The so-called "Ron Paul Revolution" that rippled through college campuses around the country from the end of 2007 through the primary season surprised many in the mainstream media and encapsulated this often overlooked subculture of third-party support.

The excitement caught on at Cal Poly too. Slogans supporting Paul were chalked on campus sidewalks and walls and more than a few "Ron Paul Revolution" bumper stickers rode around the backs of student cars in the parking lot.

Still today, long after McCain became the presumptive Republican nominee, "Ron Paul for President" posters still peer out of college apartment windows near campus.

Paul's strong and surprising youthful following began to be noted in the mainstream media after he broke all GOP fundraising records and hauled in \$4.2 million dollars from Internet fundraising in a single day, a planned fundraising day surge his supporters call a "money bomb."

But Cal Poly mechanical engineering senior and Paul supporter Stephen Murphy said



MARLIZE VAN ROMBURGH MUSTANG DAILY

Long after the end of the presidential primaries, support for candidates like Ron Paul can still be seen around San Luis Obispo. This poster pops out of a window in a student apartment complex near campus.

that for those closely following Paul, it hardly came as a surprise.

"A lot of Americans have very Libertarian tendencies," he said. "That's why the people inside the (Ron Paul) movement weren't surprised when he raked in millions of dollars in a single day. Inside the movement it just made sense that he would."

Murphy first stumbled across Paul's campaign while surfing the Web and he started watching YouTube videos to learn more about the candidate. In the months that followed he became increasingly involved in campaigning via the Internet, eventually starting the "California Polytechnic State University of San Luis Obispo Students for Ron" Facebook group, which currently has 62 members.

In fact, much of Paul's success in reaching out to young voters like Murphy has been attributed to his almost rock star-like Internet presence. YouTube videos, Facebook groups and blogs all worked to get the message out to the portion of the younger demographic already enthralled by his almost-stubbornly unwavering policies on free trade and fiscal conservatism, and his vocal opposition to both the war on drugs at home and the war against terrorism in the Middle East.

A simple YouTube search for 'Ron Paul' yields more than 175,000 results, many of which are homemade videos by college students looking to spread Paul's message through Internet and grassroots campaigning.

"He's a Constitutionalist," explained Colin McKim, Cal Poly horticulture junior. "Ron Paul still believes in principles of the founding fathers. Some people might think those principles are outdated in modern society, but some college students do still understand why they're important (principles) and those are the people that flock to Ron Paul."

McKim, who identifies himself as Libertarian, said that since Paul is no longer on the Republican ticket, he'll either vote for Libertarian candidate Bob Barr or not at all. McKim concedes that either way his vote is "pointless" in California, a blue state reliably owned by the Democrats since 1992.

Many of Paul's supporters, like Nader's, lament his exclusion from the debates and say the media unjustly ignores or criticizes their candidate.

"The media and Republicans have been very unfair to Ron Paul," said Jacob Coffin, industrial engineering junior. "The pundits make fun of him and call his supporters 'crazies.'"

Coffin first took notice of the candidate in some of the earliest Republican primary debates and said he got increasingly involved in campaigning for Paul from there. "I found him to be an actual straight-talker, an actual maverick, unlike McCain," he said.

With Paul excluded from the final primary debates, Coffin began to use to the Internet's arsenal of tools as an alternative to get the message out.

Similar to Murphy's group, he created the "Cal Poly Students for Ron Paul" Facebook group, which now has 38 members — about twice as many as Coffin realistically expected to join since he didn't create the group until almost the end of the Republican primaries and didn't spend time recruiting.

see Third-party, page 15



Hundreds of students and community members showed up to hear third-time presidential nominee Ralph Nader speak at the Performing Arts Center on campus in late September. He received a standing ovation when he walked on stage.

MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN BEILKE



Third-party

continued from page 14

Coffin also joined with MeetUp.com groups organized around Paul. Although a general social network type site aimed at facilitating meetings between like-minded people around any variety of topics or causes, many Paul supporters used MeetUp.com to organize campaigning events in their areas.

Through meetings at the San Luis Obispo Farmers' Market and other local hotspots, supporters gathered to talk about Paul and to promote his campaign by handing out fliers, posters and shirts.

Coffin now promises to vote write 'Ron Paul' in on the November ballot.

Still, others point to the obvious failure of third parties to garner significant support as proof that voters — particularly young voters — just don't care about politics, let alone radical third party politics.

"Most students are more interested in this presidential election because of Obama," said Cal Poly political science profes-

sor Alison Keleher. Even so, she's not overly optimistic about a surge in youth turnout at the polls next month.

"Young people are notoriously unreliable voters," said Keleher, who specializes in elections. "Young people and student turnout will be higher, but it remains to be seen by how much. Being interested in politics and actually having an opinion and transferring that to voting is a huge leap."

She's also skeptical about the impact of campaigns like Paul's and Nader's.

"I think it's great that so many students showed up to see (Nader) at Cal Poly, but that's also partly because he's kind of an enigma," Keleher said.

As for Ron Paul, he "raised a huge amount of money but that didn't translate into turnout (in the primaries)."

"I think that only by studying the Internet for a few more years will we know if it really has an effect on elections to the extent that it transfers into voter turnout. I think the Internet is a tool to start political conversation and to raise a lot of money. It's really too soon to see if it will affect actual votes. In 2004, Howard Dean made a lot of money, too, but that didn't translate into votes for him."

Murphy agreed that there is a lot of political apathy among the student population in general, but he said he believes that third-party and independent candidates are gaining ground among youth voters.

The Libertarians did in fact have had their most successful year to date in 2001, with 301 party members holding elective office, a 45 percent increase over one year. In 2004, Libertarian presidential candidate Michael Badnarik received 397,265 votes, more than all non-major party presidential candidates except Nader, who received 463,653 as the Green Party candidate.

Nader had been previously blamed by some Democrats for stealing the liberal vote from Democratic candidate Al Gore in 2000, when Republican George Bush defeated him in Florida by only 537 votes.

Nader supporters like Waddell and psychology senior Misha Davies, however, hardly see his ousting of Gore as something to be ashamed of.

"It's just sad that third-party candidates are seen as 'spoilers,'" Davies said. "People think they need to vote for the lesser of two evils, rather than someone they truly agree with."

Following his speech at Cal Poly, Davies asked the candidate for advice on running a grassroots-type campaign when going up against big-money, major-party politicians. She said his



MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN BEILKE

Peace and Freedom Party candidate Ralph Nader spoke to an energetic crowd at Cal Poly in late September.

speech and the answer to her question settled her decision to vote for him next week.

"I really liked what he talked about. Nader keeps coming back because he's a consumer advocate and he doesn't give up because he's trying to fight for the people," she said.

She too promised to vote for her candidate come November, knowing full and well he has no viable chance at the presidency.

The one thing that all third-party supporters believe in is the message that they send out with their ballots.

"It's less of a democracy when it's controlled by two parties," Ron Paul supporter Murphy said. "It means America's fate is left up to the media and just two people."

Keleher however, chalked the decision to vote third party up to a certain factor of "youthful rebellion."

Perhaps so, but in that case students like Murphy, McKim, Coffin, Davies and Waddell don't see themselves as rebels entirely without a cause.

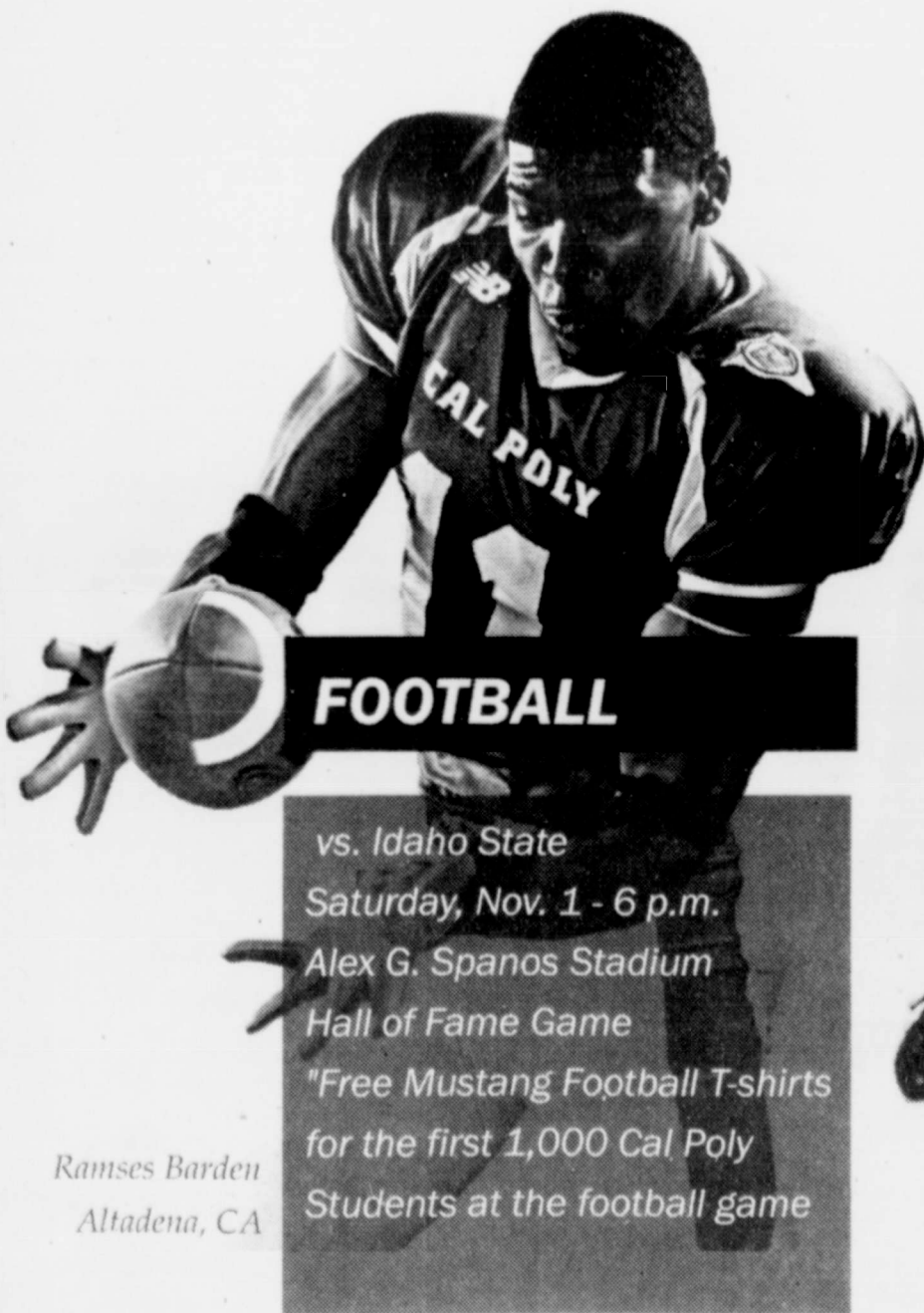
"Perhaps in 30 years when all of us Ron Paul supporters are old enough to run for office you'll see a resurgence of his ideas in the political mainstream," said Murphy.



MARLIZE VAN ROMBURGH MUSTANG DAILY



THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS



FOOTBALL

vs. Idaho State
Saturday, Nov. 1 - 6 p.m.
Alex G. Spanos Stadium
Hall of Fame Game
"Free Mustang Football T-shirts for the first 1,000 Cal Poly Students at the football game"

Ramses Barden
Altadena, CA



Ashley Vallis
Antioch, CA

SOCCER

Women's Soccer vs. UC Irvine

Friday, Oct. 31st - 7 p.m.

Alex G. Spanos Stadium

Fright Night with Mustang Women's Soccer - Fans with the best costumes will be judged at the half and win great prizes courtesy of Mustang Athletics

Men's and Women's Soccer Doubleheader

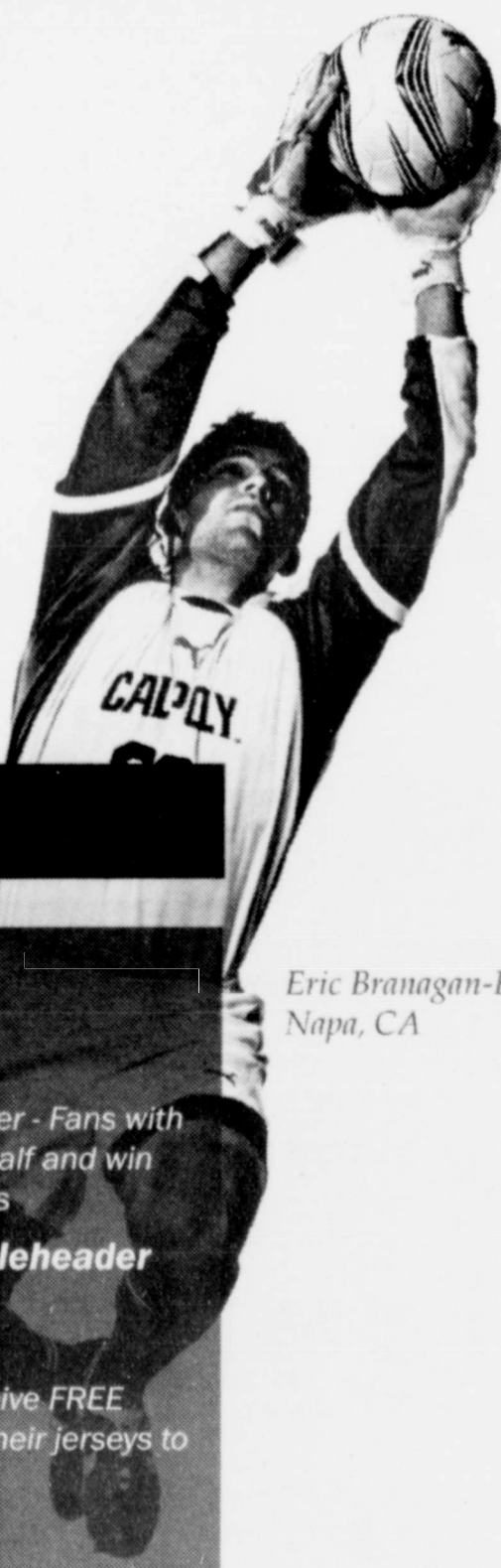
Sunday, Nov. 2nd

Women vs. Long Beach State

Jersey Day - All Youth, 13 and under, receive FREE admission for both matches by wearing their jerseys to the game.

Men vs. UC Davis - 2:30 p.m.

Alex G. Spanos Stadium



Eric Branagan-Franco
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How-to voting guide for students

At a glance

Those registered in SLO County:

Students living on campus: *Vote at the polling place in the University Union*

Poly Canyon Village: *Students turn in vote by mail ballots either by mail or to the University Union*

Off-campus students, faculty and staff: *vote in polling places in neighborhoods. Check your sample ballot for the right polling location*

Vote by mail: *must be received by county you're registered in by Nov. 4. If you vote by mail for SLO County, ballots can be dropped off at a polling booth on election day*

Poll times: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN BEILKE

Students and community members gathered in San Luis Obispo's Mission Plaza back in May for Rock the Vote, an event that focused on getting young people registered to vote for next week's election.

Alex Kacik
MUSTANG DAILY

Fill in the bubbles and feed it into the scanner. Voting is as easy as filling out an 882-E Scantron, but come election day there may be some obstacles students will not foresee.

"The ballots are really simple," said San Luis Obispo County Clerk Recorder Julie Rodewald. "They (voting machines) are optical scan so all you do is fill in the bubble. Everyone has taken a test that requires you to fill in the bubble."

The optical scan voting machines allow the ballots to be read at the precinct and minimize voting discrepancies, Rodewald added. Voters place the ballots in a scanner that reads and deposits them in the ballot box. The system will not accept ballots with too many votes and returns voting results efficiently and accurately.

"We don't have any touch screens," Rodewald said. "A lot of people are wary of those not recording the votes correctly; we even have a paper ballot to go back to if there are any disparities."

On election day, students living on campus should vote at the polling place in the student

center, unless they live in Poly Canyon, Rodewald advised. They will receive a vote-by-mail ballot, previously known as absentee ballot, and can return the ballot by mail or drop it off at the student center. If voters fill out a regular ballot on election day, they will not be listed on the roster and will be forced to fill out a provisional ballot.

Students that live off campus will have polling places in their neighborhoods, such as the Zion Lutheran Fellowship Hall on the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Santa Rosa.

"The most important thing for people to do is look at the sample ballot to see where they vote," she said. "What happens at Cal Poly is a lot of students will be required to vote with a provisional ballot if they go to the wrong precinct."

A provisional ballot is offered when poll workers can't determine if someone is eligible to vote; these are often first-time voters in California. The ballot isn't counted until after the election when the County Clerk-Recorder's Office verifies the person's eligibility.

"Voters will be turned away from polling places," Rodewald said. "But the good thing about provisional ballots is that you preserve your right to vote."

Unfortunately, many students list their home address on their voter registration and are not actually registered in San Luis Obispo County, she added. To vote they must request a vote-by-mail ballot from the county they are registered at least seven days before the election. The ballot must be sent to the respective county by Nov. 4.

"We are getting a lot of registrations from Cal Poly," Rodewald acknowledged. "You guys (Cal Poly) are doing a good job of getting people registered."

As far as college student's involvement, their interest is apparent judging by the amount of registrations and level of excitement perceived from student's phone calls and e-mails reaffirming their registration, she added.

"I hope students are inspired by the fact that this will be a historic election and will want to stay involved," Rodewald said. "We will see a drop off in the turnout after this election but if we can make life-long voters out of the students, I think we will be a lot better off."

During last week's Democracy Week, ASI partnered with Student Life and Leadership and University Housing to register 719 voters, ASI President Angela Kramer said.

"I want to get that interest focused on a state and local level also," she said.

Rodewald drew similarities between this year's election and when she first turned 18. It was during the height of the Vietnam War and marked the first year 18-year-olds could vote. Her campus was littered with Nixon and McGovern paraphernalia and the excitement was palpable.

"I'm hoping the same thing will happen with our college students," she said. "What is it that will grab your attention and make you realize that your vote will have an impact on what will happen four or even eight years from now?"

The unfortunate state of the economy and a possibility of a draft will be issues that students will have to grapple with, Rodewald added.

"You can't stay in school forever," she reminded students.

Rodewald urged students to prepare early and not wait until the last minute because there is only so much the County Clerk-Recorder's Office can do. Do not wear any party's paraphernalia and remember to thank the poll workers when voting, she added.

NOV. 4
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